CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1   Claim 1 (currently amended): A network management system for discovering information

2   about a network, comprising:

3   a plurality of processing nodes;

4   plural discovery agents on said nodes adapted to discover information concerning

5   said network;

6   each of said discovery agents having an associated discovery capability;

7   each of said discovery agents having an associated discovery assignment; ~~and~~

8   collectively, said agent discovery assignments being a subset of said agent discovery

9   capabilities; and

10   said agent discovery capabilities being overlapping and said discovery assignments

11   being non-overlapping, such that no network device is discovered more than once by

12   different discovery agents and no duplicate discovery information is generated.

1   Claim 2 (canceled).

1   Claim 3 (original): A system in accordance with Claim 1 wherein said agent discovery

2   assignments are based on said discovery capabilities.

1   Claim 4 (previously presented): A system in accordance with Claim 1 wherein said agent

2   discovery assignments reflect one or more of data collection service registrations with said

3   plural discovery agents, agent cost to obtain network information, load balancing among

4   said plural discovery agents, and assignment churn.

1   Claim 5 (original): A system in accordance with Claim 1 wherein said agent discovery

2   assignments comprise one or both of inband and outband discovery assignments.

1   Claims 6-16 (canceled).

1   Claim 17 (currently amended): A network discovery agent for use in a data storage network,

2   comprising:

3   a processing node;

4   discovery capability logic associated with said processing node adapted to determine

5   and provide agent discovery capability information to a requestor, said agent discovery

6   capability information being a subset of all discovery information obtainable by said agent;

7   ~~and~~

8   discovery query logic associated with said processing node adapted to implement

9   discovery queries based on agent discovery assignment information determined from said

10   capability information<u>; and</u>

11   <u>said discovery queries utilizing non-overlapping discovery assignments, such that no</u>

12   <u>network device is discovered more than once by different discovery agents and no duplicate</u>

13   <u>discovery information is generated.</u>

1   Claims 18-20 (canceled).